

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) A coupler connecting a fluid reservoir and a processing apparatus comprising:

- a first longitudinally extending cylindrical ring defining an interior area;
- a second cylindrical ring longitudinally adjacent the first cylindrical ring; and
- a longitudinally extending fluid conduit positioned within the interior area of the first cylindrical ring and through a laterally extending wall into the second cylindrical ring, the fluid conduit defining a fluid flow aperture,

wherein the laterally extending wall is positioned between the first cylindrical ring and the second cylindrical ring, the laterally extending wall having a top surface directed towards the processing apparatus and defining at least one vent aperture creating fluid venting communication between the fluid reservoir and the top surface.

34. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 33 wherein the at least one vent apertures provide fluid venting communication between the reservoir and the processing apparatus.

35. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 33 wherein the fluid conduit provides bi-directional fluid communication between the fluid reservoir and the processing apparatus.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 33, wherein the first and second cylindrical rings have substantially the same diameter.

38. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 33, wherein the first cylindrical ring has a first diameter and the second cylindrical ring has a second diameter.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 33 wherein the fluid conduit extends through the wall and extends within an interior space defined by the second cylindrical ring.

41. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 33 further comprising a retention cylindrical ring disposed within the second cylindrical ring.

42. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 41 wherein the retention cylindrical ring is disposed around the fluid conduit forming a cylindrical gap between the fluid conduit and retention cylindrical ring.

43. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 33, further comprising a plurality of vent apertures arranged concentrically within the wall.

44. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 33, wherein the first cylindrical ring is configured to mate with a corresponding connector on the processing apparatus substantially forming a seal creating an enclosure between the interior of the first ring and the processing apparatus.

45. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 33 wherein the fluid conduit is configured to mate with a corresponding fluid conduit of the processing apparatus.

46. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 33, including a concentric vent ring formed by an outer surface of the fluid conduit and inner surface of the first concentric ring.

47. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 46 wherein the concentric vent ring is in communication with the interior of the tissue processor.

48. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 33, wherein the fluid conduit is disposed within the first and second cylindrical rings and passes through the wall between interior spaces defined by the rings.

49. (Withdrawn) A method of coupling a fluid container with a processor system, comprising the steps of:

- providing a fluid container, the fluid container being attachable in fluid communication with a coupler;

- providing a coupler, the coupler including a first longitudinally extending cylindrical ring defining an interior area, a longitudinally extending fluid conduit positioned within the interior area and defining a fluid flow aperture, a laterally extending wall between the first cylindrical ring and the fluid conduit, the laterally extending wall defining at least one vent aperture extending through the coupler to a top surface of the coupler;

- attaching the coupler to the fluid container such that the fluid container is in fluid communication with the at least one vent aperture;

- positioning the fluid container and the coupler adjacent an appropriate locking assembly; and

- attaching the top surface of the coupler to the processor system.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of:

- providing fluid communication between the fluid container and the processor system.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50 wherein the fluid communication between the fluid container and the processor system is bi-directional.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49 further comprising the steps of:

- removing a cap from the fluid container; and

- attaching the coupler to the fluid container after removing the cap from the fluid container.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, wherein positioning the fluid container assembly adjacent to the tissue processor includes the step of:

determining the type of fluid within the container.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of positioning an identifying marking on the fluid container, the identifying marking designating the appropriate locking assembly.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49 wherein the step of positioning the fluid container and the coupler adjacent the appropriate locking assembly includes matching a color of the container and/or the coupler with a color of the locking assembly.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein the step of providing fluid communication between the fluid container and the processor system includes displacing a portion of the locking assembly relative to the coupler.

57. (Previously Presented) An apparatus providing fluid communication between a fluid container and a processor comprising:

a first longitudinally extending cylindrical ring;

a second longitudinally extending cylindrical ring;

a longitudinally extending fluid conduit within the first cylindrical ring and the second cylindrical ring, wherein the fluid conduit provides bi-directional fluid communication between the fluid container and the processor; and

a laterally extending barrier between the first cylindrical ring and the second cylindrical ring, the barrier having first and second sides.

58. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57, further comprising at least one vent aperture provided in the barrier, the vent aperture creating fluid venting communication between the first side of the barrier and the second side of the barrier within an area defined by the first cylindrical ring.

59. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 58, wherein the vent aperture provides ventilation between the fluid container and the processor.
60. (Currently Amended) A coupler connecting a fluid reservoir and a processing apparatus comprising:
- a first longitudinally extending cylindrical ring defining an interior area;
 - a longitudinally extending ~~fluid~~-liquid conduit positioned within the interior area and defining a ~~fluid~~-liquid flow aperture; and
 - a laterally extending wall adjacent the first cylindrical ring and the ~~fluid~~-liquid conduit, the laterally extending wall having a top surface directed towards the processing apparatus and defining at least one vent aperture creating fluid venting communication between the fluid reservoir and the top surface,
- wherein the ~~fluid~~-liquid conduit extends through the wall and extends beyond the top surface of the wall within the interior space defined by the first cylindrical ring.
61. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 60 wherein the at least one vent apertures provide fluid venting communication between the reservoir and the processing apparatus.
62. (Currently Amended) The coupler of claim 60 wherein the ~~fluid~~-liquid conduit provides bi-directional ~~fluid~~-liquid communication between the fluid reservoir and the processing apparatus.
63. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 60, further comprising a second cylindrical ring longitudinally adjacent the first cylindrical ring.
64. (Currently Amended) The coupler of claim 63 wherein the ~~fluid~~-liquid conduit extends through the wall and extends within an interior space defined by the second cylindrical ring.

65. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 60, further comprising a plurality of vent apertures arranged concentrically within the wall.

66. (Previously Presented) The coupler of claim 60, wherein the first cylindrical ring is configured to mate with a corresponding connector on the processing apparatus substantially forming a seal creating an enclosure between the interior of the first ring and the processing apparatus.

67. (Currently Amended) The coupler of claim 60 wherein the ~~fluid~~liquid conduit is configured to mate a with a corresponding fluid conduit of the processing apparatus.

68. (Currently Amended) The coupled of claim 60, including a concentric vent ring formed by an outer surface of the ~~fluid~~liquid conduit and an inner surface of the first concentric ring.

69. (Currently Amended) The coupler of claim 60, wherein the ~~fluid~~liquid conduit is disposed within the first and second cylindrical rings and passes through the wall between interior spaces defined by the rings.